

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00
PM-05 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-05
CA-01 /076 R

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NEA/ARN:DREUTHER

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R 300233Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, IZ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: IRAQ AIR FLIGHTS TO US

REF: BAGHDAD 0614

1. THERE IS NO AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND IRAQ. EFFORTS DURING YEARS 1963-66 TO NEGOTIATE SUCH AN AGREEMENT WERE FRUITLESS. PAN AM OPERATED PRIOR TO 1967, WHEN SERVICE TO BAGHDAD WAS SUSPENDED WITH CAB APPROVAL, UNDER A SERIES OF ONE-YEAR PERMITS ISSUED BY IRAQI CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES. IRAQI CONDITIONS WERE ONEROUS, PAN AM POSITION WAS DIFFICULT, AND THE LAST YEARS WERE PARTICULARLY TRYING AND UNHAPPY.

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2. DEPT. IS VERY COOL TO IDEA OF IRAQ AIR SERVING US. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY CURRENT PLAN FOR PAN AM TO RESUME SERVICE TO BAGHDAD AND SEE NO AVIATION POLICY JUSTIFICATION FOR GIVING ROUTE RIGHTS TO IRAQ.

3. US AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS WITH JORDAN AND SYRIA WHICH EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 1978, CONTAIN NO PROVISION FOR

ADDITIONAL ARAB PARTNERS. USG WOULD FAVORABLY CONSIDER OTHER SUITABLE PARTNERS BUT IRAQ WOULD NOT BE WELCOME TO APPLY FOR RIGHTS UNDER JORDAN/SYRIA TYPE AGREEMENT FOR REASONS INDICATED PARA 4 BELOW.

4. QUITE ASIDE FROM NORMAL AVIATION CONSIDERATIONS, HOWEVER, DEPT. COULD NOT ACCEPT IRAQI AIRWAYS SERVICE TO US IN VIEW ROLE IRAQ HAS PLAYED IN HARBORING AND SUPPORTING TERRORISTS IN CIVIL AVIATION. US POLICY ON TERRORISM, AS WELL AS STRONG CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES TO TAKE SANCTIONS AGAINST COUNTRIES SUCH AS IRAQ, REQUIRE DEPT. TAKE THIS POSITION.

5. IN VIEW FOREGOING, WE AGREE THAT USINT SHOULD IGNORE IRAQI INITIATIVES, INCLUDING REQUEST FOR VISA INFO.

COOPER

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NNN

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